

## Minutes from the Darien Parks and Recreation Committee

May 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. with the following committee members present: Patti Bumgardner, Diane Conologue, Susanne Handler, Cheryl Russell, Adele Conniff, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, Sandy Savage, Mark Adiletta, Ken Fiveson, Jennifer Moller. Invited guests and members of the public included Jayme Stevensen, Susan Marks, Kate Buch, Patrick Keane, John Sini, Richard Aponte and Lauren Callahan.

This meeting was called to discuss in more detail and vote on Resolution 19.9 which requested that The Town of Darien appropriate \$609,000.00 for the Highland Farm improvements project and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$609,000.00 to fund said appropriation.

One of the topics the committee had been concerned about was the issue of parking. In particular the number of parking spaces, the materiel used to pave the parking area, the use of Belgium block and the cost associated. The invited guests spoke to this topic to address concerns. A Consultant was hired to assess how much parking was needed for uses stipulated. Recommendations that scheduled activities not overlap to reduce parking concerns as well as two parking areas to aid in traffic flow as well as natural screening was discussed. Fencing around the lots will be in keeping with rest of property so that it will look like one continuous field. Screening will also be provided around the comfort stations and shed. Currently planned is a 20x12 shed housing a sit down lawn mower and a push mower. This type of storage will provide the flexibility of being relocated to another area of the property should the need arise. Also pavement type was discussed. Porous asphalt pavement has been used in several locations around town and was deemed to be the best solution for the drive through and handicapped parking while grass pavers will be used for the actual parking spots. Belgium block was the recommended edging along the porous parking surface for durability and long term cost efficiency.

Walking paths were discussed and the fact that they will be ADA compliant for use by wheelchairs and strollers. This has been a goal from the onset of the project.

Also discussed were comfort stations. Any permanent type of comfort station would require a septic system which would be much more costly. Portable comfort stations would also be screened and could be moved to another location on the property from year to year.

The invited guests stated that Highland Farm will not be for the sole use of athletics. The property will not be used for varsity sports but will be used for yoga, walking, Parks and Recreation programming as well as for youth soccer.

It was noted that the towns of Darien and New Canaan are working together to connect Waveny Park, the Darien beaches and Highland Farm to bike paths.

The committee chair called a vote, which was seconded, to approve 19.9. The Resolution was approved with eight members in favor, one against and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell